NOTE

Isopyrum stipitatum A. Gray (Ranunculaceae) in the Willamette Valley, Oregon.—This inconspicuous perennial herb has been collected from only three localities in the Willamette Valley, where it is at the northern limit of its known distribution. The species is also known from the Klamath-Siskiyou region of Oregon and California, southward into the Cascades and northern Coast Ranges of California, and is disjunct at its southern limit in the East Bay region of Alameda and Santa Clara Counties (Calder and Taylor, Madroño 17:69–76, 1963). In *Rare, Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals of Oregon* (Oregon Natural Heritage Data Base, 1989) *I. stipitatum* is currently included on the review list, which comprises species for which more information is needed before their status can be determined.

The first Willamette Valley collections were from Yamhill County, where *I. stipitatum* was collected on 5 occasions between 1957 and 1959 along Willamina Creek, north of Willamina [7 Mar 1957, *Mendenhall s.n.* (OSC)]. The species is still extant in this locality, though the number and extent of colonies has declined in recent years (E. Mendenhall, pers. comm.). A 1958 collection from Polk County [31 Jan 1958, *Lofgren s.n.* (OSC)] was taken from Buell County Park, along Mill Creek about 12 km SE of the Yamhill County locality. The most recently discovered population, along the Marys River south of Corvallis, Benton County [30 Mar 1980, *Chambers 4602* (OSC)] appears to have been extirpated. The circumstances surrounding the Polk County occurrence, which is still extant [7 Apr 1988, *Alverson 1306* (OSC)], seem sufficiently unusual to warrant a description.

In the Willamette Valley *I. stipitatum* appears to occur primarily in rich deciduous woods that occupy alluvial stream bottoms. Herbarium labels and field observations show that *Acer macrophyllum* and *Fraxinus latifolia* dominate the tree canopy of such sites, with a diverse herb layer typified by *Delphinium trolliifolium, Hydrophyllum tenuipes, Viola glabella, Thallictrum occidentale,* and *Trillium albidum.* The diminutive *I. stipitatum* occupies open microsites amongst the generally thick herbaceous cover. At Buell Park, *I. stipitatum* could not be found in such natural woodlands, but instead occurred in sizable patches in the rough lawn of an adjacent picnic area and playground, over an area of about 0.5 ha. *Isopyrum* was most abundant and vigorous under the canopies of scattered trees of *Fraxinus* and *Acer,* where competing grasses were relatively sparse. The remnant trees of *Fraxinus* and *Acer* suggest that this area was also alluvial deciduous woodland at one time. It is plausible that *I. stipitatum* was present at the site before the park was established, and has persisted, or perhaps even increased, with the removal of competing native shrubs and herbs. Interestingly, the habit of persisting in lawns and pastures has been reported for *Isopyrum biternatum,* a species of eastern North America (Korling, Eastern Deciduous Forest, 1973).

The small stature of the plants and the early blooming season (mostly February and March) are perhaps partially responsible for the paucity of known occurrences of *I. stipitatum* in northwestern Oregon. Additional populations may possibly occur undetected elsewhere in the Willamette Valley, particularly in alluvial stream bottom habitats. However, care should be taken to ensure that the few known populations are not needlessly destroyed.

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